

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 3, AMEND claim 1, and ADD new claims 7-10 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel support bearing assembly ~~for~~ rotatably supporting a wheel relative to a vehicle body structure, the wheel support bearing assembly comprising:
an outer member having an outer peripheral surface formed with a vehicle body fitting flange ~~for securement of~~ to secure the wheel support bearing assembly to a knuckle made of an aluminum alloy, the outer member also having an inner peripheral surface ~~formed with~~ raceways defined therein, the outer member being made of steel;
an inner member having a wheel mounting flange ~~formed~~ positioned at one end thereof and also having raceways defined therein in alignment with the raceways ~~in~~ of the outer member;
rows of rolling elements positioned between the raceways ~~in~~ of the outer member and the raceways ~~in~~ of the inner member, respectively; and
an electrically insulating layer provided at a surface area of contact between the outer member and the knuckle, the electrically insulating layer consisting of a coating layer functioning as an electric insulator.

2. (Original) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the electrically insulating layer is provided on a portion of an outer peripheral surface of the outer member, that is received in the knuckle, and one of axial end faces of the vehicle body mounting flange confronting the knuckle.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner member is positioned inside the outer member with an annular working space defined therebetween, the annular working space having inboard and outboard open ends opposite to each other, and further comprising inboard and outboard sealing members for sealing the inboard and outboard open ends of the annular working space, respectively, at least one of the inboard and outboard sealing members being a contact type seal having an electroconductive elastic element that is held in sliding contact.

5. (Original) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the at least one of the inboard and outboard sealing members comprises an electroconductive core metal fitted to one of the inner and outer members and the elastic element secured to the core metal.

6. (Original) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising an electroconductive slinger mounted on the inner member and wherein the at least one of the inboard and outboard sealing members is the inboard sealing member, the inboard sealing being fitted to the outer member and having a lip region that is held in sliding contact with the electroconductive slinger.

7. (New) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is formed by a powder coating.

8. (New) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the powder coating is made of one of an epoxy paint or an acrylic paint.

9. (New) A wheel support bearing assembly rotatably supporting a wheel relative to a vehicle body structure, the wheel support bearing assembly comprising:

an outer member having an outer peripheral surface formed with a vehicle body fitting flange to secure the wheel support bearing assembly to a knuckle made of an aluminum alloy, the outer member also having an inner peripheral surface with raceways defined therein, the outer member being made of steel;

an inner member having a wheel mounting flange positioned at one end thereof and also having raceways defined therein in alignment with the raceways of the outer member;

rows of rolling elements positioned between the raceways of the outer member and the raceways of the inner member, respectively; and

an electrically insulating layer provided at a surface area of contact between the outer member and the knuckle, the electrically insulating layer comprising a plated ply with a chromate treated layer thereon, and a coating layer functioning as an electric insulator.

10. (New) The wheel support bearing assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the coating layer is made from a low temperature thermosetting coating.